

Oliver North: Sentencing

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JULY 5, 1989 | Discussion about the Sentencing of Oliver North

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I'm blanton of the National Security Archive judge gearheart gazelle made it official today no jail time for Oliver North your reaction I think a lot of people were surprised I know this morning one of North major backers Rob Owen we've been his courier to the Contras had predicted before the sentence was handed down that this was a hanging judge and surely there would be jail time but when you look at gazelles actual order it seems that he followed almost directly the conclusion of his jury and and that was to say Oliver North you were really the subject you were manipulated you were the subordinate within a larger complex scheme with some cynical superiors fascinating language he used and that you're not really you shouldn't have to pay the price partial price there's 1,200 hours of community service that's a serious commitment that's 30 work weeks \$150,000 even for Oliver North who can make a speech in ladies \$25,000 a night that's a significant amount of money I think it did surprise a lot of people including Norse very strong supporters but on the other hand it's pretty consistent with the with the jury verdict Sam Dickens here with the American security council foundation your reaction well I don't really feel that that I had any surprise at all when you think that the jury found him guilty of the things that he confessed before the jury and nothing else there had to be a significant sentence I didn't I think that the judge really had to take into his own sentencing the facts that he knew and also the involvement of others and I think the judge Gesell and talking about what he made a comment about some cynicism of the leadership above Oliver North reflects that so in sentencing he

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North reflects that so in sentencing he was taking all those things into consideration not just that he was guilty of those elements I think it is one could nitpick you no one can say 150,000 dollars that's a lot of money maybe the judge took him to consider he can raise that money fairly easily aid to this to people working all these hours I would hope that it would be in support of refugees of Nicaragua and then he could argue resistance that's how we got into this mess isn't it because of the Congress I think that Oliver North would be delighted to go to Miami and other places and help the illegal not the illegal but the immigrants that have been forced out of Nicaragua and potentially the the combatants that were no longer apparently willing to support and many of them will be streaming into Miami in those regions and Oliver North would probably be delighted to help them although I think he's gonna be here in DC working with drug offenders and that was the act the actual designation of the senate's which would be a that many hours working with drug

offenders here in DC being a sense a soldier in William Bennett's war on drugs pretty interesting sentence and it's also an indication of what gizelle thinks there is is a major crime yes but maybe some people really don't understand that Oliver North was really working and against drugs I mean that's one of the things that the people don't seem to realize the nexus between Nicaraguan the Sandinistas and Fidel Castro and Cuba despite all these attacks on a chore because güstrow has been deeply involved in drug trafficking and now Noriega is so all these things are interrelated and Oliver North was working very much against drugs before and it looks like he will be now we're gonna be talking about to the sentencing of Oliver North and we invite your questions and your comments for our two guests first let me introduce you to Tom Blanton you've heard from first in our program he is with the National Security Archive as deputy director what is that organization we're a library of the classified government documents essentially what we're trying to do is pull together all the materials that the government has ever released on the

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government has ever released on the national security foreign policy issues and apply some of the latest technologies computerization some of the basic principles of library science try to make them really accessible really for the first time most of these have that kinds of documents been lingering in the basements of people like sam dickens and myself for years and years never accessible anybody else who wanted to study them and wanted to draw the opposite conclusion that samurai might draw so our goal in life is to be open to the public is to try to provide that kind of service and educate provide to enrich the policy debate to provide more access to documents they're really essential to this kind of study and this kind of argument does the organization have a political point of view nonpartisan nonprofit located at the Brookings Institution funded by a lot of different foundations who also sponsor research on foreign policy our basic goal in life is to talk about documents to get them out of the public debate to try to get away from a lot of the night on a source kind of Washington press that often occurs and we're all familiar with and try to get back it's not so much that the documents themselves are truth but they're at least fixed in time and you can use them if you base your arguments on those you based your research on those I think we'll all be better off Sam Dickens is with the American Security Council foundationist director of inter-american Affairs what's the foundation all about well we've been in the business for some thirty five years under the leadership of John Fisher chairman and chief executive officer and the focus is on national security issues from a bipartisan support area you can't have a national security policy of this country without having bipartisanship so the focus has always been on that gaining support for critical issues in foreign policy and defense and getting bipartisan support and going forward since identifying critical issues gaining support within the Congress for those issues and then trying to get the legislation through the foundation aspect which I'm with is surely educational today sentencing of Oliver North definitively close any chapters in the iran-contra story it really didn't

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the iran-contra story it really didn't because there are a series of other trials that are happening and in a sense gazelles basic order that North was manipulated subordinate of cynical superiors points directly toward a trial that will supposedly start it by the end of this year of Admiral John Poindexter nationals former national security adviser to the president in many ways that trial may be more earth-shaking or it may be less earth-shaking the main thing that happened in the North trial was whole batches of new information came out because Casal essentially forced the government to release previously classified materials that shed some new light light that the congressional committees had only gotten or gotten a short ray of sunshine a few of these arrangements we have the CIA agent Joe Fernandez his trial is this summer over in the Northern District of Virginia you've got following him see Court and Hakeem who are on trial for some of these other issues including the secrets case a series of counts of perjury before Congress and his congressional testimony he wasn't immunized he was the first witness I think as we all know and then you have John Poindexter if John Poindexter pulls the same defense that Oliver North did which is I was carrying out the orders of my superiors as opposed to what he said in the congressional committees the buck stops with me if Poindexter goes with it was my superiors there are only a couple of superiors to John Poindexter and that's

the former president and the current president and if he does that that trial could be quite a lot of fireworks on the other hand if he could take a plea bargain given that North was convicted so I think the saga actually continues in many ways however there are all kinds of different ways these different trials could work out but it's gonna be on the front pages I think for the rest of this year and on tonight I'd like to see a little bit more happen from an educational standpoint and I don't think it hasn't been done sufficiently for example the National Security Council staff is the arm of the President when they speak they're speaking for the president I think it was a mistake for

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president I think it was a mistake for example for Oliver North and Poindexter to go over to Congress the one to go over to Congress is the President of the United States and the separation of powers and they are not members of the State Department they're not members of the Defense Department or the FBI they are his personal staff and when they speak they're speaking for the president and I don't think enough attention has been paid to that aspect of it so when they when the Congress was going after Poindexter in Oliver North they were really going after the president they wanted to see they wanted to weaken President Reagan and they were trying with a Boland amendment to usurp the powers of the president I'd like to see more in that educational aspect to come out I'm very disappointed that the Reagan administration did not challenge the Boland Amendment has really been unconstitutional from the separation of powers they didn't but I also feel very clearly that the National Security Council was exempt from the Boland Amendment no I know that that's the spirit I'm talking about the way I look at the Constitution and the separation of powers that the National Security Council was not an intelligence gathering organization very clearly I mean all the years that I spent in government I've never thought and I don't know anyone who ever thought that the NSC had anything to do with an intelligence gathering and the Boland Amendment clearly was narrowed and written that way if the Boland if Bolden had wanted to ride it another way to embrace everyone in government it would have been very easy to do and about the ones things and he didn't do it but that's the president's fault why he didn't do it why he didn't challenge I'm disappointed because I think that Oliver North was really doing what he was in general generally directed to do this bit of President Reagan saying I want you to keep body and soul body and limb together of the Nicaraguan resistance when you have a job like that to do and you're a military man whether you're Admiral Poindexter or you're Colonel north you're gonna do all it's possible

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north you're gonna do all it's possible to gain the success and I think they had a very very much an understanding of the stakes in Central America what they mean to the United States and if any of these people that were opposed to what President Reagan wanted to do in Nicaragua with a Nicaraguan resistance looked at the situation today looked at Panama looked at Cuba looked at what's going on in El Salvador with increased arm they'd know that we have failed miserably and why did we fail it was a Congress that failed to step back to one thing in mr. Dickens said just in terms of the intent of Congress because I think you listen to Senator in a way has made at least one speech that I know of on this subject they deliberately cut short the iran-contra investigation for fear of weakening the president and I think in his speech he said we determined that if the President President Reagan knew about the diversion of funds to the Contras then he was impeachable and we'd move right away to an impeachment resolution if he didn't know about the diversion in front of the Contras then he wasn't impeachable and by dragging on the investigation and going to all these corners that a lot of which came out in the North trial we would simply weaken the presidency give Gorbachev more freedom to move and therefore we cut it off we set a deadline we're already and we have our lines just about all lighted up right now we're going to go to the calls and if you get a ringing sound stay with our line and I'll get you just as quickly as we can in the thirty minutes we have left let's go first up Carson California you're on the air hello I just want to say I really don't think that I wasn't no I forgot what he do there you should have gotten some time and as far as him going into community working with these kids with the drug thing these kids I already feel as if if you have enough money you can buy your way out of anything and they equate contra and Iran with drug smuggling I don't

think that's been in a very positive message to them I'll hang up the little bit all right thank you well first I think you have to realize who Lieutenant Colonel or Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North is he's a graduate of the u.s. Naval Academy is a very

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of the u.s. Naval Academy is a very distinguished heroic combat record in Vietnam he has suffered terribly here he felt he believed one could argue about whether everything he'd done everything that he did was absolutely proper everything correct one might even question some elements of his judgment but no one could question what he was trying to accomplish and why he was trying to do it for his president and he's working in the National Security Council and he's trying to support something that he realized as a critical interest in our own national security that's why I think that he has suffered tremendously if you know Oliver North from what has happened to him his family has suffered tremendously know from that aspect I don't think at all that he should be serving sentence he'd do a great job in the inner city he's a true believer he's a great proselytizers you could tell from his appearance on national television he can make people believe him I think he's a leader a very effective leader very charismatic I think in those senses he could be very effective in the inner city be pretty interesting assignment we'll see how it turns out reaction to the sentencing of Oliver North we go next to Ann Arbor Michigan you're on the air I am all right okay I have a comment a question like is this to understand what is been happening in Nicaragua there is a vital piece missing from the puzzle this piece I'm referring to a right are American organizations that have been working with the Sandinistas and other Central American revolutionary groups on their behalf now gentlemen what about groups such as witness repeats the committee in solidarity with the people of El Salvador the Nicaragua Network etc etc what about these groups what is their influence and what about the fact right that a lot of prominent Democrats have been working with these groups I mean literally democratic party is sitting on a time bomb a powder keg and I am kind

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a time bomb a powder keg and I am kind of surprised at the Republicans do not seize on this and just go for the jugular I mean what have with Jim right and the S&L scandal it's nothing compared to this fine you know I am torn the same way being a military man and having spent a year in Vietnam in Vietnam as an operations and a squadron commander close their supports to the to our own forces and the South Vietnamese forces how you conduct the support of an ally and friends our allies by the Rio treaty in Central American I'm talking about the Salvadorans and you talk about supporting the Nicaraguan resistance fighting clearly a self-identified group as communist and what they're doing I'm really torn that this country could allow all these different groups under our freedoms really to be supporting the communist government it has really bothered me and of course we have to come back to the executive it's because of the way the executive department handled it one could say one needs to declare war which is a responsibility of Congress but historically in conducting these sorts of efforts we haven't since we reward to declared war against anyone but we've been deeply involved in fighting communism I think more could have been done to prevent these sorts of actions and group supporting the exam I would not have allowed I wouldn't have allowed us to have diplomatic relations with Nicaragua I think they should have been cut and that would have prevented these groups from going into Nicaragua and supporting them I'm the question of diplomatic relations and one of the more interesting things that just happened with the Afghanistan when we cut off the relationship the diplomatic relations in Afghanistan I think we suffered as some some dearth of intelligence reporting coming back from what was happening inside the regime it may be and I think

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inside the regime it may be and I think some intelligence analysts have made the may they made the suggestion that by closing our embassy we actually shot ourselves in the foot because we then underestimated the staying power of the regime whereas if we'd have the embassy there it serves other purposes a you know from from that perspective and then beyond that I think you know the story of groups

involvement in Central America I think there have been a lot wide range of those on all sides of the issue from all different perspectives you mean they're sure that there shouldn't be no there shouldn't be because that the real treaty has has stated that we would be opposed to common communism exported by aggression subversion or terrorism oh why are we allowing all this to happen why aren't we invoking the Rio treaty why aren't we responding to that president Osceola invoked the Rio treaty when he asked for the 82nd airborne the 9th Infantry Division to go into under us Oscar Arias president of Costa Rica said when he's asked about what would you do if you be invaded he said well I'd invoke the Rio tree why are we talking about the Salvadorans as our lives well that's the interesting question I mean I one of the most interesting things that happen in the Salvadoran elections that I'm aware of was a national television appearance with out Freddie Fredo Christiani who's now the president who was the candidate of what was seen as the very right-wing conservative party and a joint appearance with felony Ruben Zamora who was the Secretary General of the left-wing what's the democratic convergence that's allied with it with the with the guerrilla movement yet their own television together both denouncing US intervention in their country from both sides of it that there was too much less control it's an interesting that you're seeing that sure enough they said it clearwater florida you're on the air Claire waters on the air thank you I've been very upset by this whole long ordeal in the continuing huge cost to Colonel North I resent the fact that

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Colonel North I resent the fact that very few people even refer to him by his title which he burned very with very hard I was a Navy wife for 20 years of an unsired Island we had and he was a sail I mean I know what it's like to be a service wife and I know what it's like to be afraid this is a very brave man and I think he's been badly treated by former President Reagan I was I find it very difficult to ever forgive him for not pardoning Colonel North because I don't think what it whatever he did was wrong whatever he did he always had his heart in the right place and this the because Congress is so full of pro-communist apologists but it's frightening to me you know nobody ever talks about the fact that before Noriega there was the tryst and Carter was very friendly with him and it was well known that he was a drug dealer and Carter knew it and he kept it hushed up I mean I take a monthly publication that gives me this information and they wouldn't publish it if it weren't true because it's a free that unit for anybody to read also um whatever he did was nothing compared to what James Wright did all the illegal shenanigans he did and he went home with a huge war chest and a fantastic pension and with no criminal activity and he's never gonna be prosecuted and I think this is wrong I just don't understand my country with the way they act of the way they treat their veterans all right thanks very much it's it's an interesting point because in terms of Ronald Reagan's responsibility to Colonel North because Colonel North essentially said he was following orders of Ronald Reagan essentially and that therefore all these illegalities that were alleged were essentially the problem of his superiors if you're going to be the fall guy if you're going to be the subordinate taking orders Ollie North's essentially sat in the courtroom and pointed his finger up it disappears Ronald Reagan being at the top of that pyramid it's fascinating just in terms of the Senate to compare back to some of the Watergate

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to compare back to some of the Watergate trials where sentences jail sentences were very common but one must remember where those started those started when Judge Sarika was trying to get a couple of the Watergate burglars to talk and he had threatened him with jail terms and he put him in jail to make him talk and it was communications from the jail that McCord finally started talking about the whole apparatus that set up Watergate in this case it wasn't a problem with people taught not talking in fact Oliver North at his trial talked at length and talked at length about how superiors that ordered this and in fact introducing the evidence this mammoth stipulation 42 pages of event after event after event participated in by President Reagan and Vice President Bush and secretary Shultz and secretary Weinberger and director Casey and the whole range of top national security officials basically saying look it wasn't just me it wasn't just a little lieutenant-colonel North it was all these folks don't hold me to account for this well I think loyalty is a two-way street and I don't believe that Oliver North expected to be a fall guy would there be no support of the line for him I feel very strongly that President Bush at this time at this time now should pardon Oliver North one could

argue the need to go through a trial you can say the pros and cons go through it go through a conviction go through sentencing that has been done now is a time to pardon Oliver North here his retirement pay has been taken away once he was found guilty now he has these other charges hanging over his head and where is the responsibility then as far as the speaker of the house is concerned why wasn't the Logan Act for example brought into play no one but the executive are allowed to conduct foreign policy and look at the dear commandant a letter that the Democrats signed to to the Sandinistas and the way

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signed to to the Sandinistas and the way they really undercut the President and conducted their own foreign policy so I feel how is it that for example Oliver North can be punished this way and the speaker of house walks away with an incredible retirement pay was 69 charges for unethical behavior which he's not going to stick around to face and we handled as a speaker of the house handled a dear commandant a letter and undercut the President of the United States foreign policy conducted his on foreign policy I'm no expert on Jim Wright I do think that you may have a lot of company out there in your clarion call I mean I think just this afternoon at the courthouse representative Dornan came to the courthouse with a petition signed by 58 or 59 members of Congress however he was a little deflated by the sentence I think he was quite surprised and he essentially said well I'll just hold my petition for now essentially I think that interpretation said that this the sentence of no jail time no matter what the amount of money was or the hours was definitely not what he expected and it deflated his call for a pardon so I don't know that you're out there with a big multitude right now calling for that that was interesting Temple City California you're on the air yeah hello I think that what he was just saying they're about pardoning North is totally wrong he should be sentenced to prison and Bush and Reagan along with him this is just making the cover-up complete if they pardoned north well I I don't think that there very many people that share that that point of view the President of the United States is responsible for conducting policy to guarantee the security of these United States and that's what he was trying to do the Congress in its majority was opposed to that and yet those responsibilities clearly are on

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responsibilities clearly are on President Reagan's shoulders now one could argue that he should have kept on his fight going more and more to the people to override Congress's objections that's one of my criticism I think when President Reagan said I am NOT going to lead this crisis to another president and he was talking about Nicaragua I I don't forgive him for leaving the crisis for President Bush but to say that President Reagan or Oliver North are those are criminals when they're standing up for the security of this nation with their understanding of it now I don't know what your understanding is of all the incredible intricacies of foreign policy and national security but Oliver North understood them as a career military officer and I think President Reagan did too I just think the story is not over yet and we'll we'll see what else comes out I think there's still an independent prosecutor they are still leveling perjury counts they still have a grand jury in session looking at the people who testify before Congress they just recently brought charges against Secord there are a lot of unanswered questions and this tale is by no means over before we go to our next call I could tell you a little bit more about our two guests Sam Dickens with the American security council foundation as you mentioned he had a military career spent 28 years in the Air Force retiring as a colonel his last assignment was as director to Western Hemisphere affairs of plans and policy for the US Air Force also sir I lived in Latin America for 14 years and served as a fighter pilot in Korea and Vietnam is a graduate of West Point Tom Blanton with the National Security Archive co-authored for that organization a chronology the documented day-by-day account of the secret military assistant to the Iran and to the Contras he was a former journalist with the Atlanta Journal and constitution and has also been published in the New York Times he is a graduate of Harvard and was editor of the Harvard Crimson during his studies there we go next they tell us everything is going way back to Florida and the bar beats you're on the air love you program I'm

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you're on the air love you program I'm gonna direct this all the time because I love that man he's a really fantastic at least he's got the guts to set up there and tell people the United States what really Harlan North is I think it's a shame that they convicted Hawley in any way shape form or fashion I don't know the other people over there I heard he was a Harvard man and I don't think he knows what he's talking about anyway I appreciate this whole Bali's listen to this man that I would retired and I found a little extra job and it'll it'll give me something until I leave I'll make sure that I put every penny of that income to him and I'm behind him 100% all Americans should be behind him all Americans real Americans thank you thank you for the call either guests have a reaction to that call it well it's your fan club thank you well you can see where he stands without any question and support for Oliver North and I do think it's time to have the pardon now some people might argue their other trials but you know Oliver North is the one that's been through the trial and it's time to pick up the wounded from the battlefield he'd been on the battlefield he was on one that was very physical and on another form of battlefield and it's pretty physical the way it's affecting him and I think it's time for President Bush to pick up the wounded and bring him back I think it's very interesting the caller's point about the conviction because he basically says Oliver North shouldn't have been convicted I think it's interesting because the jury said Oliver North should be convicted of the three specific things that he admitted in the courtroom having done any minute is guilt and they all dated from the time of the scandals coming out into public and the period of the cover-up of the scandal and it's that sequence of events this sort of overreaction to cover-up and his admission of that and his admission of trying to cover up the bribe from the sea court those were the things he was convicted of the larger counts the the counts before the scandal

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counts the the counts before the scandal went public those were the things the jury said that's the responsibility of the higher-ups that's President Reagan that's pointing to excess McFarlane and don't overlook McFarlane's role in all this because as a witness he appears to been very very frustrating to the special prosecutor he appears to be very very frustrating to Judge Gesell who various times during his testimony interrupted him on the stand what are you talking about talk speak straight come on mr. McFarlane and the fact that McFarlane had struck a bargain and got a suspended sentence I think played very heavily and Gizelle's notion McFarlane after all was one of the superiors he did sign his name to those letters that Oliver North - drafted and McFarlane does bear responsibility he did show the remorse and so forth but I think neither gazelle nor this the Independent Counsel were very satisfied with his performance I think there's a little language about in the independent price of the independent counsels to the judge asking for a prison term for oliver north where he says well about mr. MacFarland you know at least he related the facts extensively if not perfectly which is an interesting kind of San Antonio Texas here on the air caller glad to hear from you as an ex-army nurse they served in two wars and I don't feel that Oliver North should get anything Congress passed the confusing laws the Boldin amendments and I feel that they would have better served our country if they paid attention to the saving of loans meant which will cost more than the Vietnam War Congress is a poor example and making foreign policy and all they really think about is getting reelected most the time and they seem to be more concerned about China and they are about Nicaragua which is right on our borders just a quick response that Oliver North was not charged with violating the Boland Amendment he was charged with

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Boland Amendment he was charged with some very specific obstruction of justice destruction of documents aiding and embedding and lying to Congress and accepting a gratuity the government official you're not supposed to accept a gratuity took a security fence it's interesting I don't know mr. Dickens has been out to the house but if our I guess who was at Abu Nidal that the North said I got the security minister protect my family from Abu Nidal I was ably need all I could drive right through that in my you know little Chevy Nova it's not a very sturdy fence it certainly wouldn't protected from terrorists or from any one of the truck bombs or car bombs the traditional way that they blow up people instead it does keep on lookers away from the house it keeps the TV cameras away from the house it's a nice security fence to provide a little bit of insulation to your family it's not much protection against terrorists who had blow up a Pan Am jetliner I think that was a

little that was somewhat disingenuous for anybody has actually seen the fence and his covering up the fact of having accepted it from Secord I think was what convinced the jury to hold him guilty on that Kim accepting a bribe but the sad part I think really is is the focus on Oliver North is not the correct focus the focus really should be on the Congress this is why all these things developed and the lady had been a nurse the call from San Antonio talking about the Boland Amendment focuses on the umbrella that brought about all the problems and that Bullen amendment was designed to hog-tie the administration and President Reagan so that he could not conduct his own foreign policy and it's the separation of powers it really is the issue and it's not being addressed it's falling by the wayside of course that's where I hold the President Reagan responsible for not standing up and getting rid of the war challenging the War Powers Act challenging the Boland Amendment because ever since Vietnam that has been the difficulty that we've we've continued to face and until that's addressed that who is responsible for foreign policy not the Congress but the President of the United States we're gonna continue to

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United States we're gonna continue to have problems those top national security people in the ready administration had a great discussion right on this point I think in June 1984 and as a result of the North trial we have the minutes of that that meeting I've got him over off the set here be glad to give you a copy because they're really instructive because it's President Reagan and Vice President Bush and Schultz and Weinberger and Casey and Meese and others I guess Meese wasn't there because they talked about going to talk the Attorney General who was in French Smith and they have this discussion about they they're looking at Congress about to cut off the funds to the Contras and they're talking about how we've got to put together some funds from third countries and even though McFarlane @rx accepted several millions of dollars from the Saudis or solicited that money he didn't inform the larger group larger group sort of pensively thinking about this and George Shultz speaks something says well you know Jim Baker who was then the chief of staff Jim Baker tells me that if we went around Congress like this we went off and raised money from third countries when Congress says no says said no appropriated funds why that could be an impeachable offense and Bill Casey's jumps in there and says no no no that's not right I'm a lawyer too Jim Baker's not the only lawyer around here I know today and really it wouldn't be impeachable and she'll says no no no you gotta understand the Constitution says that only the Congress can appropriate money all right the executive can't do that that's the that's the between having a king and having a president and then KCI McFarland others demur and they say no no not really and the end of the meeting McFarland's actually says we've got to go off and talk to the Attorney General and get an opinion about whether this is legal so the next day and this memo is reprinted in the Iran-Contra committee report they go talk to William French Smith say well what would make it legal can we go talk to these third country's information missus yeah three three requirements one you got to tell Congress if you raise money for third countries and two there can't be any direct US money involved and three there can't be any promise any quid pro quo and if you do those three then it's legal well if you look at what happened according to the documents in the North

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according to the documents in the North trial and according to Oliver North's own testimony none of those three things were carried out that would have made it legal in the opinion of William French Smith they never told Congress not about the Saudis their word there were direct expedited aid and Oliver North's own handwriting signed off by Ronald Reagan and the memo of February of 85 you can see that that they hand that discussion they talked about specifically at that point what was constitutional what was separation of powers what can we do they concluded what was legal all only five minutes left in the program Reno Nevada yes I do agree with the gentleman that spoke before this one President Roosevelt during the Second World War when Congress said there shall be no arms sent to help in the war in our allies at the time it was England what President Roosevelt had done was he had our boys fly secretly the airplanes to the border of the United States then I can I have films of where the Canadian came with horse and buggy and rode the planes over to Canada thereby the president was trying to circumvent the law and Ted Sorensen said that he under President Kennedy President Kennedy never consulted Congress went during the Cuban

Missile Crisis it was a fact and under the Constitution he had the right to dictate to run foreign policy so what happened with Colonel North is just a fact that Mr. Right decided to go to Nicaragua and run the foreign policy and he was an unethical man alright thanks for the call but I don't think that Oliver North is unethical I think when it comes to unethical behavior it squarely falls on the shoulders of some of the people and in Congress but you know Franklin D. Roosevelt did another thing when you were talking about that that was really significant and it shows the courage that the president takes in defending his country and leaning his country when he knows he has to defend it he sent us

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he knows he has to defend it he sent us Navy pilots to train the Royal Air Force command in flying the PBY Catalina I raise that now because everyone's talking about the Bismarck that's been discovered on the floor of the Atlantic off the coast of France the pilot who saw the Bismarck was a co-pilot to her Royal Air Force was a US Navy pilot this is before we entered World War Two is before Pearl Harbor the next Catalina that came on after that one to maintain the visual contact with the Bismarck also had a US Navy officer flying it and this is what a president did with courage now you could say it was illegal at the time but the president has a responsibility for defending this country and taking the proper action he also has to take the hits and I'm worried most right now that President Bush is worried about how Congress has affected President Reagan's administration because of the Iran-Contra affair and is not showing the proper courage with respect to the Nicaragua resistance Nicaragua Panama and Noriega and a little cost from Cuba things are getting worse and I can't see with them this administration is doing to take care of the situation that's building daily Rockville Maryland hi Mr. Dickens lives up to his name in the fiction that he paints about the aid El Salvador the private Republican donors who contribute to the Central American problem I haven't been discussing the fiction that Ollie North lived poor Ollie North out in Great Falls Virginia which is one of the most luxurious areas we live in this area but I just like to say well if all he's doing 1200 hours of community service in amongst the malnourished tortured poisoned children he helped poison by assisting in the dope business in the United States I wonder why conservatives aren't calling for the death penalty for Ollie North because that's where they seem to put their faith in stopping this drug traffic well I think it's absolutely

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traffic well I think it's absolutely ridiculous Oliver North was not involved in anything to do with drug trafficking or any cocaine movement or helping people that were that's the figment of the imagination of the people that have wanted to attack say the Nicaraguan resistance it's barely it's very clear from the reporting and analysis that's being done who has been involved in the cocaine trafficking if I've been following it for at least 10 years on a daily basis when you talk about Oliver North my goodness living where he lives a lieutenant-colonel doesn't get all that much pay he isn't on flying status either so he doesn't have that kind of augmented pay it's very difficult for him to live where he lives but to raise that as some sort of an issue when you don't even know what kind of mortgage payments he's had to pay or how he's getting along with his salary is it's really a canard jump in just on that part of it I thought that was the probably the part of the prosecution at the trial that the Independent Counsel probably had the most fun with and that was the magic tin box and all the North's closet with the \$15,000 and that that was the explanation for everything in terms of their ability that by pay cash for used car or whatever they brought in used car salesmen to describe how North had come in with a certain amount of cash wasn't quite enough went away came back the next day with the right amount of cash he had his co-workers in the National Security Council describe how you know up until 1985 Oliver North was always borrowing a dollar here or \$2 there for cab fare or whatever and also miraculously in the summer of 85 this was their testimony he didn't have he needs no I don't say it's a fast I don't know what your experience is on something like that but I've known people have been very wealthy and you're when you're with them they never have any money and who needs to pay or pick up the lunch tab someone who doesn't have that money yesterday just you enter that is right the security fence you wouldn't take a security fence that's go or engine one minute left caller we got a hurry okay couple quick questions concerning the constitutionality of the

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concerning the constitutionality of the Boland Amendment let's suppose the question of constitutionality of the Boland Amendment was determined before North poindexter and second and her team testified before Congress and the courts determined that the Boland Amendment is unconstitutional all right well let it go out there let me basically all that they they did their own legal opinion inside the National Security Council it's instructive it was the only one they got on the constitutionality of Bowen whether it applied to the National Security Council and the guy who did at Bretton Scaroni had flunked the bar a couple of times he was a fairly low-level lawyer they never made it public and essentially Bretton Scaroni concluded that well Bowen probably applied to the NSC but even if it didn't it applied Oliver North's salary from Louisville we're out of time gentlemen I'm going to say thanks to both of you for being here Tom Blanton with the National Security Archive Sam Dickens with the American Security Council foundation both in our Studios here in Washington to give their reaction to the sentencing of Colonel Oliver North thank you

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